

Acton Implementation Report due

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Next month Acton residents will be asked to comment on plans for the first major Acton housing development in more than a decade.

Although the Ministry of Environment has said Acton has enough sewage capacity to grow to 10,000 people from the current 6,500, it hasn't yet been proved that there is enough water for that new development. Halton Hills council is waiting for a Halton Region report on water capacity at the Fairy Lake well and a final report on the Acton residential implementation study.

For Acton councillor Norm Elliott, it's been a long wait. "My

frustration with this issue is that the Acton implementation study has been in the works for several years. We haven't seen the test results from the Prospect Park well. I intend to keep this issue on the front burner and press for action on the implementation study," Elliott says.

"The proposed new development will help pay for a lot of projects that Acton people want to see. If we are going to stagnate at 6,500 people it will be very hard for existing taxpayers to afford new services. It is also absolutely essential that we get to 10,000 people from a commercial standpoint. The local merchants need

an infusion of growth," Elliott says.

Halton Hills planning director Ian Keith says "the missing link is water capacity. We are waiting for the Region's report on what, if anything, will happen to Fairy Lake and the water table if we pump one million gallons of water a day from the Prospect Park well."

Acton councillor Rick Bonnette says everyone is pushing for action on the studies.

"There are a lot of anxious developers out there. We have identified five areas where new housing could be built but because development is limited we have different developers objecting to each other's plans. There's only so many slices in the pie so it gets very complicated deciding who gets to be the first to build — and where."

Bonnette says Regional officials are carefully monitoring the flow levels of Fairy Lake after recent work on the water treatment plant.

"The Implementation Study has been on the books for about two years. We've met with the landowners, politicians and consultants and the developers are jockeying for position.

"The issue is, who will be able to develop and when. It won't be on a first-come, first-serve basis. There will be a set of criteria to help us make our decisions."

Planning director Keith says it probably will take at least two years before any of the proposed housing is built. Since several of the potential developers are opposing each other's plans, he expects the issue will have to go to the Ontario Municipal Board for final approval. ■

NEWSSHORTS

Acton arson charges laid

An Acton real estate agent and his wife have been charged with arson and will appear in Milton court July 7. The arrests wrap up a long investigation into a Jan. 25 fire at a two-story home at the corner of Young and Mill Streets in Acton. Investigators found a garbage bag containing gasoline had been wedged in a door at the top of the stairway leading to the bedrooms. The fire did \$120,000 damage. No one was home at the time of the blaze and the family pets had been taken to relatives. Charged with arson and fraud for the purpose of arson are 33-year-old Kenneth Glenn Thomson and 33-year-old Patricia Joan Thomson, both of R.R. 2, Acton.

Rockwood dog test-drives car

A Rockwood woman narrowly missed being run over by her own car when her dog knocked it into gear on the Main Street hill in Rockwood on Thursday. Margaret Boughton said she was reaching into her car when her German Shepherd "Marley" jumped into the front seat, hitting the gear shift.

"I was knocked out of the way by the door and the car just rolled back across the street. There were cars coming and people walking but it missed everything and ended up resting against a small wall and rail. Thank heavens no one was hurt and Marley is fine. It will cost me about \$2,000 to fix the car," Ms. Boughton said. Guelph OPP say "Marley" will not be charged.

No tunes for an Acton man

Smash and grab thieves made off with a \$700 car sound system from an Acton man's car sometime late Saturday night. The passenger window of the car, parked on Longfield Road, had been broken and a CD player, an amplifier and 10 CDs were taken.

B&E attempt at Acton pizzeria

Overnight Saturday someone tried to pry open the rear door of Queen's Pizza on Queen Street in Acton. Police say the suspect or suspects managed only to bend a metal plate on the bottom of the door, doing about \$20 damage.

Un-huh, Un-huh

The front of a Pepsi machine in front of Acton Esso on Young Street was damaged when it was knocked over early Saturday morning. Police have no suspects or witnesses.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'm offended and hurt when Acton people say our team leaving will just mean more ice time for the kids."

—Sabres owner, Mitch Lajeunesse

DID YOU KNOW?

If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have a \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.

Acton fire department

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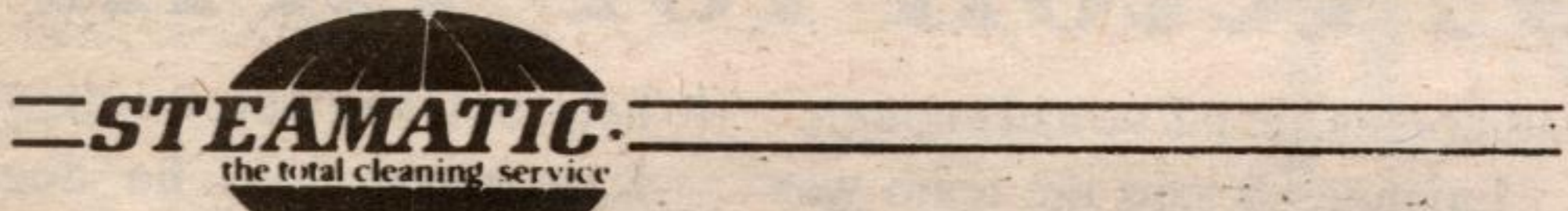
Cunningham describes the old Bower station as "totally sub-standard" for fire fighting purposes. "We couldn't even buy a new truck because there is not enough room to park it. Our new station includes room to grow with

the community."

Cunningham says although the new Acton facility will be open within weeks, the official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony won't take place until the fall, when everyone is back from summer holidays. ■

Interested in joining in on the excitement?

On Wednesday, June 10 there will be a "Seniors Picnic in the Park" from 11:30 to 4:00 at Prospect Park. Join in on the fun and come out for lunch, afternoon tea, the "battle of the sexes" baseball game, golf or the balloon and bean bag toss.



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